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THE HEALTH OF NEWPORT 1970

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BOROUGH OF NEWPORT

ISLE OF WIGHT

THE ANNUAL REPORT

of

THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

including the Report of

THE CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

FOR THE YEAR 1970

BOROUGH OF NEWPORT, I.W.

HOUSING AND PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

1970 - 1971

Chairman - Alderman H.E. Harvey, C.C.

Vice-Chairman - P.W. Swan, Esq., F.F.S., M.R.S.H.

The Mayor : Alderman W.P. Hogan, F.P.S.

Alderman A.J. Chalmers, C.C.

C.D. Croucher, Esq.

R.C. Darroll, Esq.

F.T. Jones, Esq.

Mrs. D.M.E. Krishnamma

W.J. McKeown, Esq.

H. Randall, Esq.

L. Say, Esq.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

COUNTY HALL,
NEWPORT, I.W.

Tel. Newport 4031

To His Worship The Mayor, and to the Aldermen and Councillors of the Borough of Newport, Isle of Wight.

MR. MAYOR, ALDERMEN AND COUNCILLORS,

I have the honour to submit the Annual Report on the health of the Borough for the year 1970.

Dr. Alison Batten resigned during the year and I became the Medical Officer of Health for the Borough. I also took her place for Cowes and for the Rural District. As I was already the Medical Officer of Health for the other three districts on the Island, I thus became the Medical Officer of Health for the whole Island, as distinct from Dr. R.K. Machell who is the County Medical Officer for the Isle of Wight. Unfortunately, there has been some confusion about our official titles and it is hoped that this has now been clarified. I have important statutory responsibilities relating to infectious diseases, etc. which are my special concern and the special concern of all Medical Officers of Health but not County Medical Officers. It is important, therefore, that everyone concerned should be quite sure who is the Medical Officer of Health and who is the County Medical Officer.

My last report mentioned the problem of brucellosis, a disease contracted through drinking untreated milk. This was given a certain amount of press publicity and I am now able to report a great improvement. Less unpasteurised milk than ever is being sold by retailers on the Island and safe milk is now available in all parts of the Borough. Furthermore, a B.M.A. meeting held later in the year at St. Mary's Hospital was well attended by doctors, veterinary surgeons and farmers, who were in general agreement that the disease should be eradicated without delay. The whole Island is now to become one of the first areas to be brucellosis free.

Thousands of young people passed through the Borough on their way to the Pop Festival of 1970. It was assumed beforehand that most of them would travel on foot and extra toilet facilities and litter bins were provided. In fact, they nearly all travelled by coach and the people of Newport were hardly aware that anything extraordinary was happening. Even St. Mary's Hospital was not, as predicted, overwhelmed. In fact, none of the Island hospitals were more busy than on any other Summer Bank Holiday weekend.

In this report there are interesting details about housing for which I am grateful to your Housing Manager, Mr. Fairweather. His is, at times, a frustrating task but I have greatly appreciated his willing co-operation regarding housing matters throughout the year.

I should like to thank the Public Health Inspectors and other staff of the Health Department for their continued efficient work and loyalty.

Finally, may I express to the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee my appreciation of their help and support during the year.

Yours faithfully,

Douglas Quantrill.

Medical Officer of Health.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS 1970

Medical Officer of Health:

D.W. QUANTRILL, M.B., Ch.B., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H., D.T.M.&.H., D.Obst.R.C.O.G.

Chief Public Health Inspector and Meat and Food Inspector:

F.K. AZE

Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute and Sanitary Inspectors' Examination Joint Board as Public Health Inspector.

Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute as Inspector of Meat and other Foods.

Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute in Sanitary Science as applied to Buildings and Public Works.

Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute as Smoke Inspector.

Public Health Inspector:

H.S. BULL

Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute and Sanitary Inspectors' Examination Joint Board as Public Health Inspector.

Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute as Inspector of Meat and other Foods.

Meat Inspector:

G. WOODS

Certificate in Meat Inspection issued by the Royal Society of Health.

Diploma in Food Hygiene issued by the Royal Society of Health.

Rodent Operator/Foreman:

R.J. PHILLIPS

GENERAL STATISTICS

Area (in acres)	15,530
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1970) as per rate books	7,033
Rateable value as at April 1st, 1970	£878,963
Sum represented by 1d ~~n.p.~~ rate (1969-70)	£3,513

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS

	M.	F.	Newport M.B.	England and Wales
Population (Registrar General's Estimate)			22,170	
LIVE BIRTHS				
No. of live legitimate births ...	137	154	291	
No. of live illegitimate births ...	18	7	25	
Rate per 1,000 population (crude)			14.2	16.0
Comparative factor			1.20	1.0
Comparative Birth Rate			17.1	16.0
Illegitimate live births per cent of total live births			7.9	8.0
Stillbirths				
No. of legitimate stillbirths ...	1	1	2	
No. of illegitimate stillbirths ...	-	3	3	
Rate per 1,000 total live and stillbirths			15.6	13.0
Total live and stillbirths ...	156	165	321	
DEATHS				
Total number of deaths	154	208	362	
Crude death rate per 1,000 of estimated resident population			16.3	11.7
Comparative factor (deaths)			0.62	1.0
Comparative Death Rate			10.1	11.7
Infant Deaths				
Legitimate infants under 1 year ...	2	1	3	
Illegitimate infants under 1 year	2	1	3	
Legitimate infants under 4 weeks ...	1	1	2	
Illegitimate infants under 4 weeks	2	1	3	
Legitimate infants under 1 week ...	1	-	1	
Illegitimate infants under 1 week	2	1	3	
Infant Mortality Rates:				
Total infant deaths per 1,000 total live births ...			18.9	18.0
Legitimate infant deaths per 1,000 legitimate live births			10.3	17.0
Illegitimate infant deaths per 1,000 illegitimate live births			120.0	26.0

DEATHS (cont.)

	Newport M.B.	England and Wales
Neo-natal mortality rate (deaths under 4 weeks per 1,000 total live births)	15.8	12.0
Early neo-natal mortality rate (deaths under 1 week per 1,000 total live births)	12.7	11.0
Peri-natal mortality rate (stillbirths and deaths under 1 week combined per 1,000 total live and stillbirths)	28.0	23.0
Maternal mortality (including abortion)		
Number of deaths	Nil	
Rate per 1,000 total live and stillbirths	-	0.18

Causes of death attributed to Newport residents were as follows:-

	Male	Female
Tuberculosis of respiratory system	1	-
Measles	1	-
Syphilitic disease	1	-
Malignant neoplasm, oesophagus	-	2
" " , stomach	1	1
" " , intestine	5	5
" " , lung, bronchus	9	4
" " , breast	-	5
" " , uterus	-	1
" " , prostate	2	-
Other malignant neoplasms	9	10
Benign and unspecified neoplasms	-	1
Diabetes Mellitus	1	4
Anaemias	1	1
Mental Disorders	1	2
Multiple Sclerosis	1	-
Other diseases of nervous system, etc.	3	3
Chronic rheumatic heart disease	-	4
Hypertensive disease	-	2
Ischaemic heart disease	25	30
Other forms of heart disease	6	11
Cerebrovascular disease	24	42
Other diseases of circulatory system	12	21
Influenza	4	10
Pneumonia	11	21
Bronchitis and Emphysema	15	6
Asthma	1	1
Other diseases of respiratory system	-	1

	Male	Female
Appendicitis	-	1
Intestinal obstruction and Hernia	1	-
Other diseases of digestive system	1	2
Nephritis and Nephrosis	-	1
Hyperplasia of prostate	3	-
Other diseases, genito-urinary system	3	2
Diseases of skin, subcutaneous tissue	-	1
Congenital anomalies	-	1
Birth injury, difficult labour, etc.	3	1
Symptoms and ill defined conditions	3	4
Motor vehicle accidents	2	1
All other accidents	1	5
Suicide and self-inflicted injuries	3	1
All causes	154	208

NOTIFICATIONS OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE RECEIVED DURING THE YEAR, 1970

Age	Scarlet Fever	Measles	Infective Jaundice	Pulmonary Tuberculosis
Under 1 year	-	4	-	-
1 and under 2 years	-	29	-	-
2 " " 3 "	-	33	-	-
3 " " 4 "	-	43	-	-
4 " " 5 "	-	36	-	-
5 " " 10 "	2	73	-	-
10 " " 15 "	-	1	-	-
15 " " 20 "	-	1	-	-
20 " " 25 "	-	1	-	-
25 " " 35 "	-	3	1	-
35 " " 45 "	-	-	-	-
45 " " 55 "	-	-	-	-
55 " " 65 "	-	-	-	1
65 years and over	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	2	224	1	1

No cases of Food Poisoning were notified during the year

SUMMARY OF INSPECTIONS, ETC.

Inspections under the Housing Acts	154
Inspections under the Public Health Acts	264
Drainage	302
Caravan Sites	15
Atmospheric Pollution	19
Verminous Premises	18
Swimming Pools	25
Factories	8
Food Preparation Premises	121
Foodshops and Stores	115
Ice Cream Premises	5
Bakeries	11
Milk and Dairies	7
Slaughterhouses	802
Rodent Control (Supervisory Visits)	28
Animal Boarding Establishments	1
Pet Shops	4
Shops Act	9
Noise Abatement	9
Refuse Collection and Disposal	266
Offices, Shops and Railway Premises	42
Knackers Yard	4
Water Supply	19
Civic Amenities Act	4
Miscellaneous	248
Rent Act	1
	2,501

Statutory Notices Served - Public Health Acts	6
Informal Notices Served	78
Notices Complied with	69
Nuisances Abated	41
Complaints Received	46
Water Samples	
(a) Drinking Water	67
(b) Swimming Pools	9

F O O D

MEAT INSPECTION

CARCASES AND OFFAL INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED IN WHOLE OR IN PART

	Cattle Excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
No. Killed	2,069	385	1,096	2,143	21,448	-
No. Inspected	2,069	385	1,096	2,143	21,448	-
All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci						
Whole carcases condemned	4	12	44	18	156	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	447	147	3	128	999	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci	21.8	41.3	4.3	6.8	5.4	-
Tuberculosis only						
Whole carcases condemned	-	-	-	-	1	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	1	-	-	-	108	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	.05	-	-	-	0.51	-
Cysticercosis						
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	4	1	-	-	-	-
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration	5	1	-	-	-	-
Generalised and totally condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-

	Tons	Cwt	Qrs.	Lbs.
Total meat condemned	20	12	0	23
Other foodstuffs	5	0	1	18
	25	12	2	13

In addition 1,497 tins of miscellaneous foodstuffs were destroyed.

SLAUGHTERHOUSES AND MEAT INSPECTION

The following slaughterhouses were licensed for the year 1970:

1. Heytesbury Slaughterhouse, Worsley Road, Newport occupied by F.M.C. (Meat) Ltd.

2. 35 - 43 Scarrots Lane, Newport, occupied by Bennett & Hamilton Ltd.

Eight hundred and two visits were made to slaughterhouses in connection with meat inspection and licensing.

The number of slaughtermen licensed by the Council was 24.

During the year the Chief Public Health Inspector pointed out to the Council that in the event of the Scarrots Lane improvement scheme being implemented, the Council, and consequently the Isle of Wight, would have insufficient slaughtering facilities. He therefore recommended the Council to give some consideration to the provision of a new modern abattoir up to British and Continental standards.

Conferences were held with Officers of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, and the Meat and Livestock Commission, on the requirements of a new abattoir and the matter will be the subject of further reports in 1971.

KNACKER'S YARD

The following knacker's yard was licensed for the year 1970:

Park Green Farm, Forest Road, Carisbrooke occupied by A. and D. Biles, Trafalgar Cottage, Union Street, Newport.

FOOD PREMISES

Food Trade	No. of Premises
Bakehouses	3
Bread and Cakeshops	5
Butchers	16
Canteens	8
Confectioners Shops (including ice cream)	21
Dairies	6
Fishmongers	4
Fried Fish Shops	4
Greengrocers	16
Grocers	54
Hotels	7
Licensed Premises	52
Cafes and Restaurants	34

In November, 1970 the Council decided that Mr. G. Woods, Meat Inspector, should be authorised to undertake the inspection of foodshops and food preparation premises when he was not engaged on meat inspection duties. This has enabled the Department to increase the number of routine inspections very considerably, thus leading to improved liaison with traders and to increased compliance with Food Hygiene requirements. There is no substitute for the regular routine inspection of food-shops and stores.

Many improvements to premises were carried out during the year and in some cases premises were renewed to a very high standard.

Reference was made in my last Report to the necessity for proper stock control especially in the case of foods with a short shelf life. Many trades are now using their own coding systems to ensure proper stock rotation of such foods and to ensure their own protection. There are still a few who have been advised to introduce their own systems of rotation and have failed to do so.

HOUSING

The Spring of 1970 saw the completion of the 58 house industrialised development at Pan with the final letting in June. Up to the time of writing no further building has been commenced although there are now high hopes of constructing some 40 units on the Nelson Road, Barton Road, Field House and Wallace Court sites. All of these new dwellings are to be 1 and 2 bedroomed units and should help considerably to reduce the alarming number of under-occupied houses on the Council estates, thus giving a chance to some of the many young families awaiting rehousing.

The Wallace Court extension is to provide nine extra bungalows large enough for elderly couples who have a need for this type of supervised accommodation, and a warden's bungalow is to be included on the site. The present estate consists of 18 bungalows which are for single persons only. Wallace Court has undoubtedly been a great success and of the 18 persons originally rehoused in 1964, eight still remain, mostly enjoying their longevity. One lady is in her 96th year.

Nine extra bungalows will make little difference to the needs of the Borough, as undoubtedly Social Workers and Health Visitors could probably nominate dozens of cases of elderly and infirm persons living in old fashioned and inadequate accommodation who could enjoy much fuller lives if they were better housed. Can we not, therefore, find more money to build more of this type of dwelling? Are these people not the ones on whom the town's resources should be spent? On the council estates alone no less than 330 out of 1100 tenants are of pensionable age. Many of them are not only elderly, but chronically sick, infirm or disabled.

The Housing Waiting List is here to stay, and it doesn't get any smaller, in spite of the Council's efforts. With the accent in the last year or two on Slum Clearance the housing of routine cases has been much delayed, and a formidable list of priority cases grows every week. Vacancies arise only occasionally - in fact in 1970 only 26 properties were available for reletting and of these only nine were 3 bedroomed houses. The rest were mostly very small units, and it is only by moving tenants to accommodation suitable in size for their needs that the best possible use can be made of every vacancy.

It is very difficult for a small housing authority with a large housing waiting list to cope with the problem of homeless families - normally persons who are to be turned out of their homes by County Court orders, through no fault of their own. It is emergency rehousing of this nature which delays routine cases, to the annoyance of those who thought they were next in the queue. Newport Council endeavours to do its best as a housing authority and tries to act as a Welfare authority too.

I am pleased to hear that the Council officers' suggestions for the modernisation of the older houses are now receiving serious consideration. Some 3 bedroomed terraced houses may be converted into 2 bedroomed units with upstairs bathroom. Others which are to be retained as 3 bedroomed are to be enlarged. In all cases kitchens are to be enlarged and the whole premises properly modernised, including adequate heating arrangements.

A start is likely to be made in Prospect Road followed by Barton Estate, and other pre-war roads. This work cannot be done in occupied houses and every effort will be made to move people out of their homes, either permanently if they wish, or temporarily to other accommodation if they wish to come back to the same house. The work, financed in part by Improvement Grants of up to £1,000 per dwelling, will have to be phased over several years, and on its completion it will be time to look at the early post-war development, which by present day standards is not all it should be.

RODENT AND INSECT PEST CONTROL

The following inspections under Part 1 of the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949 were carried out during the year:-

Local Authority Premises	95
Dwelling Houses	875
Business Premises	412
Agricultural Premises	146

A total of 794 treatments was carried out in premises of all kinds. The number of infestations dealt with indicates that the rodent population remains about the same from year to year in the different classes of premises. 66 contracts for rodent control in business premises were in operation.

No new poisons were used and chief reliance was placed on Warfarin; no difficulties were experienced with this poison and in particular no resistance to it has been encountered in Newport.

Complaints about insect pests and requests for advice were received in about the same number as in previous years. Cases of infestation by fleas were few and there were no cases of bed bugs at all. The Department's chief activity involves the identification of domestic 'nuisance' pests and advising on treatment.

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL

A weekly collection of refuse from domestic premises continued throughout the year together with daily collections from shops and other trading premises in the town.

The following vehicles were in use during the year:

(a) Three 35/50 cu. yd. Dennis continuous loaders.

(b) One 18/25 cu. yd. Dennis continuous loader (reserve).

(c) One 16 cu. yd. side loader rear tipping Ford Eagle.

An investigation and survey of the service was carried out by consultants employed by the Council and a bonus incentive scheme put forward for the Council's consideration.

Refuse disposal was by crude tipping at Sandpits Plantation and Lynnbottom.

During the year the newly formed Newport Joint Refuse Disposal Committee decided to erect a refuse pulverisation plant at Dodnor to serve Cowes, Newport and part of the Isle of Wight Rural District, and I anticipate that the plant will be operating early in 1972.

WATER SUPPLIES

The water supplies to the Borough were satisfactory as regards quality and quantity. No contamination of any significance occured.

Samples of water taken for bacteriological examination, chiefly by the Isle of Wight River and Water Authority, gave the following results:-

Satisfactory	Suspicious	Unsatisfactory
64	Nil	3

The three unsatisfactory results were in respect of well water samples and appropriate action was taken.

No samples were taken for chemical analysis during the year. The sources of water were unchanged; the supply is hard and not liable to plumbo-solvency.

OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT 1963

In May a Clerical/Technical Assistant was appointed. He received practical training in the Department in duties under the Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act, 1963 and clerical and administrative procedures were established to deal with the anticipated increase in the volume of work under this heading. Unfortunately, for the last three months of the year he was obliged to undertake additional clerical work in the Department due to the departure of other staff so that the systematic inspection of premises which he was about to undertake had to be deferred.

It is disappointing for me to report, once again, that due to inadequacy of staff there was very limited activity under the Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act in Newport. I look forward to having a full complement of staff in 1971 so that these important duties can be vigorously undertaken.

FACTORIES ACTS, 1961

Inspections for purposes of provisions as to Health

PART 1 OF THE ACT — INSPECTIONS

Premises	No. on Register	Inspect-tions	Written Notices	Occup-iers Pro-secuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2,3,4, and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	16	-	-	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Sect. 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	129	8	2	-
(iii) Other premises in which Sect. 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	4	-	-	-
TOTAL	149	8	2	-

CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND

Particulars	Found	Remed'd	Referred to H.M. Inspector	Referred by H.M. Inspector	No. of Prosecu-tions
Want of Cleanliness (S.1)	-	-	-	-	-
Overcrowding (S.2)	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient	-	-	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	4	4	-	-	-
(c) Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	4	4	-	-	-

PART VIII OF THE ACT

OUTWORKERS

Nature of Work	SECTION 110			SECTION 111		
	No. of out-workers in August list required by Sect. 133 (1) (c)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council	No. of prosecu-tions for failure to supply lists	No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises	Notices served	Prosecu-tions
Wearing apparel, Making etc.	2	-	-	-	-	-